

legacy was much more than that. During his three terms as Mayor, Maynard oversaw construction of the midfield terminal at Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport, established a cultural affairs department, brought the Olympics to Atlanta, and all the while gave a voice to the city's in town neighborhoods.

Perhaps one of the most significant accomplishments of Maynard Jackson's tenure was his early support and leadership on affirmative action. During his first term, Maynard instituted a groundbreaking affirmative action program that elevated the percentage of city contracts awarded to minorities in Atlanta from less than 1 percent in 1973 to 38.6 percent five years later.

One of the great success stories of Maynard's affirmative action program was the creation of a "joint venture" between white and minority-owned businesses during the construction of the Atlanta airport. Working from a vision of inclusion, Maynard was able to unite various groups and interests in building one of the most complex airport terminals in the world ahead of schedule and within budget.

It is particularly ironic then that Maynard passed away on the day before the Supreme Court issued its landmark ruling. In two successive votes, the Justices recognized that the most effective way to cure society of exclusionary practices is to make special efforts at inclusion, which is exactly what affirmative action does.

The actual phrase "affirmative action" was first used in President Lyndon Johnson's 1965 Executive Order. In 1967, Johnson expanded the Executive Order to include affirmative action requirements to benefit women. The policy was significantly expanded in 1969 by President Richard Nixon and then Secretary of Labor George Schultz. In 1973, Maynard Jackson began his leadership in implementing these policies, which enabled Atlanta to become a world-class city.

There has always been affirmative action in public policy—but for many years it operated to exclude, rather than include, people of color. Affirmative action was put in place to not only encourage diversity, but to be a minor step in the direction of justice after hundreds of years of institutional and social discrimination against women and people of color in the United States.

Much of the opposition to affirmative action is framed on the grounds of so-called "reverse discrimination and unwarranted preferences." In fact, less than 2 percent of the 91,000 employment discrimination cases pending before the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission are reverse discrimination cases. Under the law as written in Executive Orders and interpreted by the courts, anyone benefitting from affirmative action must have relevant and valid job or educational qualifications.

Opponents of affirmative action also claim it is discriminatory. The problem with this myth is that it uses the same word—discrimination—to describe two very different things. Job discrimination is grounded in prejudice and exclusion, whereas affirmative action is an effort to overcome prejudicial treatment through inclusion. The most effective way to cure society of exclusionary practices is to make special efforts at inclusion, which is exactly what affirmative action does. When thinking about affirmative action policy, it is important to keep this principle in mind.

In fact, despite the progress that has been made, the playing field today is still far from level. Women continue to earn 76 cents for every dollar earned by a male. Black people continue to have twice the unemployment rate of white people, and graduate from college at half the rate of white people. In fact, without affirmative action the percentage of Black students at many selective schools would drop to only 2 percent of the total student body.

While I applaud the Court's decision today, our society still suffers from racial discrimination. It is unfortunate that after all these years we are still fighting an uphill battle for full inclusion into our Nation's society.

However, we are fortunate to have had the civil rights movement and leaders like Maynard Jackson. In remembering Maynard, we must carry on his legacy and his commitment to never waver from equality for all.

MAKING MEDICARE BETTER FOR ALL SENIORS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to be here tonight to talk about a very important issue that is resonating across the country, and just recently on my return back from my district, more importantly, the issue of Medicare and prescription drug reform which is impacting largely low-income working families and especially many of the families that I represent in my district in California, Latino working families.

The facts are clear, 87 percent of uninsured Latinos come from working taxpaying families. However, nearly 60 percent of Latinos live in families with incomes below 200 percent of the poverty level. Many of these families, 37 percent, in fact, lack basic access to quality care. Low-income elderly Latinos face incomparable barriers to health care at just about every corner of their lives. Linguistic, cultural, financial burdens continually impede their health access that would otherwise be available to every American.

When President Johnson signed the Medicare bill back in 1965 he said, and I quote: "No longer will older Americans be denied the healing miracle of modern medicine."

Medicare was not created to exclude the elderly in exchange to enrich private insurance companies. The Republican proposal as I see it undermines the universal character of Medicare that ensures quality for all seniors. Instead, it provides different benefits to different seniors depending on your income. Figures estimate that the Medicare beneficiaries who spend \$4,000 or more out of pocket on drugs are not individuals making less than 100 percent of poverty, not those between 100 and 200 percent of poverty, but those individuals who live with incomes greater than 200 percent of poverty. These are the people we are asking to pay the most for their prescription drugs.

The House Republican bill increases costs for seniors by \$8 billion and does not offer meaningful benefits, nor does it make drugs affordable for our seniors. How can we even realistically say we are attempting to improve the lives of all Americans when the Latinos and low-income elderly population are the most susceptible for falling between the privatized cracks?

There are more than 214,000 Latino Medicare beneficiaries currently residing in the State where I come from, in California, and over 55 percent of those seniors report having little or no information. They do not even know about the bilingual toll-free Medicare phone number. Some do not even have telephones in their homes. Who will care for those beneficiaries when the Republicans impose unaffordable premiums, requiring spending up to \$250 before they can receive any help at all? This even prohibits the HHS Secretary from negotiating better prices. I thought he was supposed to be working on our side on behalf of our consumers and our seniors.

With private and for-profit managed care plans competing to entice healthy seniors to enroll, traditional Medicare will be forced to raise out-of-pocket costs astronomically for the sickest and most disabled beneficiaries. The holes in the cracks are visible. We are just seeing what has occurred in the State of California where many beneficiaries were dumped and they were left without care.

I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to think of the future of these populations, the low-income, taxpaying. Whether they are Latino or not, let us help all the elderly who deserve accessible and meaningful Medicare plans. Let us protect our Nation by caring for all American seniors, and let us begin by working with the program that we know works, that will make a difference for all of us.

HONORING MAYNARD JACKSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I am sad to join my colleagues, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP), and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT), as well as the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) who was on the floor earlier, and I know the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. MAJETTE), I do not know if she has been here yet, and many other Members, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) who was a very close friend of Maynard Jackson. I am saddened to add my personal thoughts and prayers to their wonderful comments about Maynard Jackson.

America has lost a great statesman today, and our hearts are saddened for his family and thousands of his colleagues and friends who loved him and worked with him on so many issues.

For his many friends at the United States Conference of Mayors where he

served in key leadership roles, to those who worked with him in building the magnificent Atlanta airport in his tenure as mayor, to the many people that he touched as he worked tirelessly to bring the Olympics to Atlanta, the list goes on and on, Maynard Jackson, Jr., was larger than life, physically, politically and in every way.

Maynard Jackson was the essence of a public person. Being first elected the mayor of Atlanta and then reelected and term-limited for another term, Maynard found other venues in which to serve his beloved Atlanta. He was an entrepreneur, one who mentored many young people who had expressed an interest in starting their own businesses. Maynard Jackson can be best described as a facilitator of the people. A facilitator so much so that when he chose to return to elected office, Mr. Speaker, for a third term as mayor of Atlanta, he was elected overwhelmingly with 80 percent of the vote. People loved and trusted Maynard Jackson.

Maynard was a democrat with a small "d" and a capital D. He offered himself as the Chair of our party, as the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) said earlier. Even though he was not successful, Mayor Jackson continued to work on voter education and outreach within the party in a very significant way.

I was pleased to appoint Maynard Jackson to serve on the Election Assistance Commission Advisory Committee. I think it was an honor to all the Democratic members of the House that he accepted that position. This advisory committee would have had, and does have, the import of assisting 50 States to make sure that the American electoral system is accessible and fair. What greater American to oversee such a momentous task.

Mr. Speaker, this was a result of legislation passed by the House of Representatives, by the entire Congress, signed by the President to make sure that every vote in America counts, that the public knows that, that we do the outreach, that we have the education of the public, that we have the technical assistance and the financial assistance to States and to communities, to have a voting system that, again, is fair, understandable, accessible and in which every vote is counted.

Maynard Jackson devoted his life to the legitimacy of the process, to democracy in our country, to a commitment to enhance the voices of minorities in our country. We will miss him with his warm smile and his big heart. We all would say to Maynard, Well done. Well done.

I hope it is a comfort to his family that so many people mourn their loss and are praying for them at this sad time.

REMEMBERING MAYNARD JACKSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart, indeed, for Maynard Jackson was a very dear and close and personal friend of mine.

I say this with all sincerity and truthfulness, that had it not been for Maynard Jackson, I would not be here serving in the Congress of the United States. Maynard Jackson ushered in a whole era of black political participation unprecedented. He was a pioneer of soaring magnitude that touched so many people's lives.

In 1973 he gave opportunities and hope for so many of us when he ran and was elected to mayor. And to show the kind of person he was, one year later he encouraged me to run for the Georgia House of Representatives to start my career. I was elected as one of the youngest members of the House of Representatives of Georgia.

Maynard Jackson, one year after he was elected mayor, was in the street of Atlanta, on the Southside of Atlanta walking day to day and knocking on doors to help get me elected to the Georgia House of Representatives. So I hope you understand me when I say that I stand here with a deep and heavy heart.

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I have thought what could we say, what could we say in this hallowed Chamber of the Congress of the United States that would best epitomize Maynard Jackson?

To me, it is summed up in one word and that is great. Maynard Jackson was a great man. He was a great human being, not only great in size but great in his heart, great in his giving, extraordinarily great in his contributions, the guiding force to build the world's busiest airport Atlanta's International Airport, the guiding force to bring the 1996 Olympics to Atlanta Georgia, making us a world class city, opening door after door, not just in the world of politics, which has been mentioned, but in business, opening up doors of business opportunities for many of us who would not have those opportunities and those doors opened.

Greatness is his word. Greatness is its meaning, and maybe we ought to pause for a moment to ponder that word "greatness."

That question was put to the great Greek philosopher Aristotle, and Aristotle was asked, What does it take to make a great person? Aristotle replied, In order to be a great person, you must first of all know thyself. Maynard Jackson knew himself. He knew who he was and he knew whose he was, that he was foremost a child of God and he carried that with him.

His faith sustained him, gave him the courage to step out in 1969 as a young man and challenge the legendary Her-

man Talmadge for the United States Senate seat in Georgia in, 1969, one year after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Later on, that word of greatness was asked of the great Roman general Marcus Aurelius. What does it take to be great, Marcus Aurelius was asked. Marcus Aurelius responded and said, In order to be great, you must first of all discipline yourself, and Maynard Jackson disciplined himself, carried himself.

Oh, he was a master politician. Nobody could work the room like Maynard Jackson, shaking hand after hand. I learned so much from him, how to shake somebody's hand and look them in the eye and make them feel like they are the most important person on Earth. That was Maynard Jackson.

The discipline of getting through Morehouse School at 18 years old, the discipline of becoming the first Vice Mayor of Atlanta, African American, and then becoming the first Mayor of Atlanta, African American; the discipline of Maynard Jackson.

Finally, that question was put to the great Messiah, Jesus Christ, and Jesus was asked, What does it take to make a great person? Jesus responded and said, In order to be great, you must first of all sacrifice yourself. Maynard Jackson sacrificed himself. He gave of his life. Indeed, he did.

We all knew he had some health problems, but he kept going, and I am sure as he was here in Washington, D.C., this morning, he was sacrificing himself to further expand opportunities.

When I last met with him, he said, It is a shame that we have 600,000 African Americans who are able to vote and are the age to vote in Georgia but are not registered to vote. David, we must do something about it. He was a man of action who knew himself, who disciplined himself, who sacrificed himself.

On this day, let it be known that a great oak fell in the forest of America and the world and we all need to thank God for sending Maynard Holbrook Jackson our way, not just the black folks' way, but not just the white folks' way, all of our way, for he was truly a bridge builder, and this Nation and this world is better because God sent Maynard Holbrook Jackson our way.

God bless Maynard Jackson.

HONORING MAYNARD HOLBROOK JACKSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I stand again to address this House and to express my sorrow at the passing of my friend, a great man, Maynard Holbrook Jackson.

Longfellow wrote: "Lives of great men all remind us, We can make our